

So ended what is generally claimed to be one of the leanest years for the lepidoptera, certainly since the last War and possibly for this century. The usual common migrants were all extremely scarce, even the Silver-Y except perhaps in the south-west of England. The large migrant Sphingidae were likewise recorded in very small numbers with only a handful of the Bedstraw Hawk (*H. gallii*) after its invasion of 1973. Hardly was any species in the ascendancy except perhaps the Chalkhill and Small Blues which were in exceptional numbers in some localities. And above all the weather with a great deal of cold and rain in the summer did not help this very disappointing season of 1974.

## Notes and Observations

AMPHIPYRA PYRAMIDEA L. OR A. BERBERA RUNGS CLUSTERING UNDER BARK. — In early August 1965, when on an insect ecology course at Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, Suffolk, I had an experience exactly parallel to that described by Mr. A. A. Allen (*Ent. Rec.*, 87: 24-5). We were stripping samples of loose bark from dying elms to estimate the population of bark beetles by counting their galleries, when I got a surprise as a succession of nine copper underwings shot out from under one piece where they had been closely packed. Nobody else recounted a similar experience. As I am not a coleopterist I do not often peel off bark from standing timber and I dismissed the occurrence as memorable, but probably commonplace. It is therefore of interest that such a long-standing prober into obscure places as Mr. Allen should have only this one recent experience of an aggregation of Copper Underwings to recount.

I am led to conjecture how and why such an aggregation should build up. The moths have a long flight period: do they aestivate and only pair and become active in the autumn? In both our instances, it seems that the moths would have to leave their abode in a fairly definite sequence to avoid gross disturbance. Unless all the moths return nightly to the same roost, this suggests that voluntary activity is infrequent. — R. W. J. UFFEN, 6 Staddles, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Nr. Bishops Stortford, Herts., CM22 7SW, 30.vi.75.

ANOTHER NEW FOREST M.V. RECORD. — The result of running my Robinson trap from dusk to dawn for the night of 1st-2nd June was — NIL. This is the first Nil return for a June night I have ever had. The maximum temperature on the 1st was 15°C., and for the night the minimum was 2°C. Records for previous years for the same date, giving the number of specimens (and the number of species), were: — 1963, 161 (47); 1964, 92 (41); 1965, 45 (21); 1966, 16 (8); 1967, 93 (35); 1968, 102 (38); 1969, 14 (9); 1970, 129 (43); 1971, 36 (24); 1972, 6 (5); 1973, 13 (9); 1974, 58 (23). — L. W. SIGGS, Sungate, Football Green, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.